

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

1 - 4. (previously canceled).

5. (currently amended) A method of reducing noise audible from a speaker, the method comprising:

receiving an audio status signal indicating a change in audio program content from an audio device that audio program content is imminent in an audio signal from said audio device;

producing a control signal from said audio status signal indicating ~~whether or not~~ that audio program content is imminent in an audio signal from said audio device, said producing comprising incrementing a counter value in response to said audio status signal indicating that audio program content is imminent in an audio signal from said audio device;

maintaining said control signal active while said counter value is greater than a predetermined value; and,

transmitting said control signal, for use by a speaker controller operable to provide a speaker drive signal to said speaker in response to said audio signal and said control signal indicating that audio program content is imminent in an audio signal from said audio device.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein producing comprises decrementing said counter value in response to ~~said an~~ an audio status signal indicating that audio program content is not included in an audio signal from an audio device.

7. (originally presented) The method of claim 6 wherein producing comprises setting said control signal inactive when said counter value is equal to said predetermined value.

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8. (originally presented) The method of claim 7 wherein setting comprises writing to a register in control of the state of said control signal.

9 - 11. (previously canceled).

12 - 13. (currently canceled)

14 - 19. (previously canceled).

20 - 23. (currently canceled)

24 - 41. (previously canceled).

42. (previously amended) An apparatus for reducing speaker noise, the apparatus comprising:
a computer including a processor and memory;
an operating system in the memory for creating commands for controlling operation of audio devices connected to the computer;
a control signal generator for producing a control signal, the control signal generator comprising a counter having a counter value which is incremented in response to at least one of the commands indicating a change from no audio content contribution to an audio content contribution by an audio device; and,
a speaker controller connected to a speaker, to the computer and to an audio device, the speaker controller being responsive to the control signal for providing a speaker drive signal to the speaker when audio program content is imminent in the audio signal from the audio device.

43. (originally presented) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the control signal generator is operable to maintain the control signal active while the counter value is greater than a predetermined value.

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44. (originally presented) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the counter value is decremented in response to at least one of the commands indicating that audio program content is not included in an audio signal from an audio device.
45. (originally presented) The apparatus of claim 44 wherein the counter causes the control signal to be inactive when the counter value is equal to the predetermined value.
46. (originally presented) The apparatus of claim 45 further comprising a register in communication with the counter, for controlling the state of the control signal.
- 47 - 49. (previously canceled).

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